

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA



E-NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 2023



Keynote address of Dr. PD Vaghela, Chairman, TRAI on the occasion of Silver Jubilee of TRAI: 25 Glorious year of service to nation and Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav on 20th February 23

Consultations Paper

TRAI released Consultation Paper on 'Telecommunication Infrastructure Sharing, Spectrum Sharing, and Spectrum Leasing' on 13th January 2023

Department of Telecommunications has informed TRAI that to promote optimum resource utilization among the licensees, it is proposed to allow sharing of all kinds of telecom infrastructure and network elements among all categories of service providers, licensed for provision of authorized telecom services.

Considering the request of stakeholders to permit inter-band spectrum sharing and leasing of spectrum, the issues related to spectrum sharing and leasing of spectrum have also been taken up along with the issues relating to infrastructure sharing.

In this regard, a Consultation Paper on 'Telecommunication Infrastructure Sharing, Spectrum Sharing, and Spectrum Leasing' was released on 13th January 2023 seeking comments on the issues raised in the Consultation Paper are invited from the stakeholders.



https://traigov.in/sites/default/files/CP_INF_13012023.pdf

TRAI released Consultation Paper on License Fee and Policy matters of DTH Services” on 13th January 2023

A license fee is a non-tax fee levied on a service provider against the privilege of being permitted to carry out a licensed activity. In India, currently, the DTH operators are required to pay a license fee of 8% of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) on a quarterly basis to Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (MIB), where AGR is calculated by excluding Food and Services Tax (GST) from gross Revenue (GR).

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT), on 25th October 2022, carried out amendments in the Unified License (UL) Agreement for AGR. As per the amendment, Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR) shall be equal to GR of the licensee by reducing certain revenue components as mentioned in the amendment. Further, the definition of AGR is also amended and shall be arrived by excluding some components from ApGR.

The extant DTH guidelines prescribe a Bank Guarantee (BG) for an amount of Rs 5 crore for the first two quarters, and, thereafter, for an amount equivalent to License fee for two quarters and other dues not otherwise securitized. DoT has also carried out certain amendments for rationalization of BGs on 06th October 2021.

In view of the aforesaid amendments carried out by DoT, and on the request of DTH association and DTH operators, MIB has sent a reference to TRAI on 02nd February 2022, requesting TRAI to examine the following issues from policy angle and furnish its recommendations.

- ✓ Issue of exclusion of non-licensed activities from definition of Gross Revenue in respect of DTH License fee as in case of recent amendments carried out by Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and/or identify any other base for levy of the license fee. Accordingly, the format of Form- Din DTH sector as per GR/AGR criteria may also be provided.
- ✓ Percentage/amount of Bank Guarantees (BGs) in respect of private DTH services as in case of recent amendments carried out by Department of Telecommunications (DOT); and
- ✓ Issue of Uniform License Fee (Level playing field) in respect of all Distribution Platform Operators (DPOs).

Accordingly this Consultation Paper has been prepared to seek the comments/views of the stakeholders on issues related to License Fee payable and Bank Guarantee furnished by DTH operators. Written comments on the consultation paper are invited from the stakeholders.



https://traf.gov.in/sites/default/files/CP_13012023.pdf

TRAI issued Consultation Paper on “Regulating Converged Digital Technologies and Services – Enabling Convergence of Carriage of Broadcasting and Telecommunication services” on 30th January 2023.

Over the period of time, various technological developments in digital markets have resulted in the convergence of devices, services, and networks. Efficient utilization of resources, increased level of competition, more innovative user applications and technological developments are the main drivers of convergence. Convergence has been intensified by the emerging use of digital technologies across the sectors. The convergence of digital and physical products using Machine to Machine (M2M), Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence and other technologies is paving the way for Fourth Industrial Revolution. Convergence has brought several benefits to stakeholders. Technological convergence not only enables the possibility of delivering a broader set of products, but also benefits through lower entrance barriers, promotion of competition, lower cost equipment, quicker market response, and new business opportunities. But at the same time, it has posed several challenges as well. The paper examines the challenges posed by converging technologies and seeks views of the stakeholders on changes required, if any, in legal, administrative, and licensing framework to deal with them.

In this regard, TRAI issued a Consultation Paper on “Regulating Converged Digital Technologies and Services – Enabling Convergence of Carriage of Broadcasting and Telecommunication services” on 30th January 2023 for seeking views of stakeholders on changes required, if any, in legal, administrative, and licensing framework to deal with the challenges posed by converging technologies.



https://traf.gov.in/sites/default/files/CP_30012023.pdf

Open House Discussion

TRAI held an Open House Discussion (OHD) on 11th January 2023 through video conferencing on the Consultation Paper on “Issues relating to Media Ownership”.



Events

SATRC (South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council) Workshop on Spectrum commenced at New Delhi on 31st Jan. 23 to 2nd Feb. 2023. Dr. P.D. Vaghela, Chairman, TRAI and Mr. Masanori Kondo, Secretary General -APT (Asia Pacific Telecommunity) inaugurated the workshop.



Telecom Subscriptions

Telecom Subscription Data as on 31st December 2022:

Particulars	Wireless	Wireline	Total
Urban Telephone subscribers (Millions)	627.03	25.35	652.39
Rural Telephone subscribers (Millions)	515.89	2.10	517.99
Total Telephone subscribers (Millions)	1142.93	27.45	1170.38
Overall Tele-density (%)	82.57	1.98	84.56
Share of Urban Subscription (%)	54.86	92.35	55.74
Share of Rural Subscription (%)	45.14	7.65	44.26
No. of Broadband Subscribers (Millions)	799.82	32.35	832.20

Active wireless subscribers on the date of Peak VLR in December 2022 were 1020.91 million.

In December 2022, 12.49 million subscriber requests were made for MNP. By the end of December 2022, a total of 784.43 million consumers have availed the MNP facility since its implementation.

TRAI released the updated list of panel of Auditors to carry out audit of Digital Addressable Systems (DAS) on 3rd January 2023, vide which two audit firms namely M/s T R Chadha & Co LLP and M/s S.N. Kapur & Associates have been removed from the list of auditors. Currently, the total number of auditors empanelled by TRAI to carry out the audit of Digital Addressable Systems of DPOs is 54.

TRAI has sent a letter to all the Distribution Platform Operators (DPOs) on 19th January 2023 for compliance of various provisions of the Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services (Eighth) (Addressable Systems) Tariff (Third Amendment) Order, 2022 (4 of 2022) dated 22.11.2022. According to this letter, all such DPOs, who have not declared tariff as per the provisions of Tariff Amendment Order, are directed to comply with the provisions of the Tariff Amendment Order and report compliance to the Authority immediately.

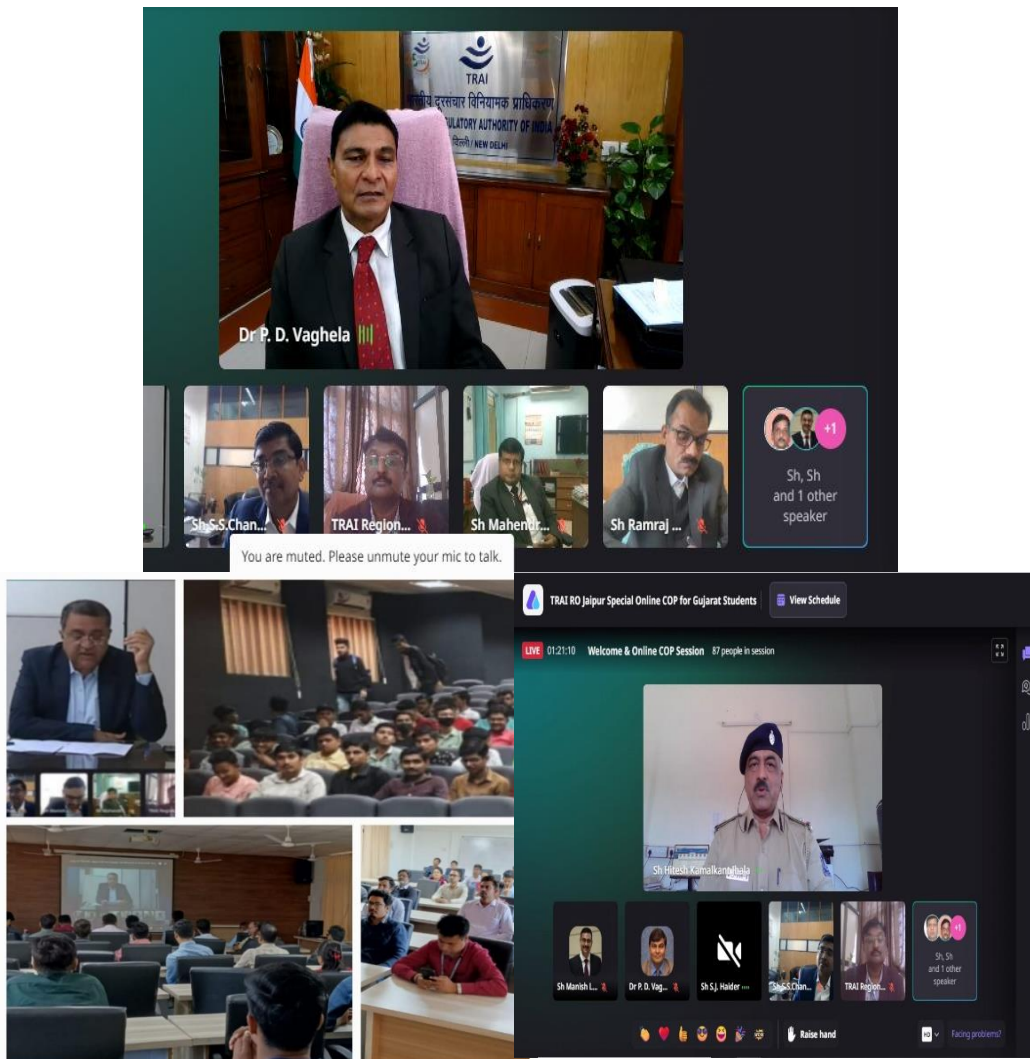
Consumer Outreach Programmes

TRAI conducted Consumer Outreach Programmes (CoP) for different sections of the society as under:

S. No.	Place	Date
1	Gujarat (Rajasthan)	10 th January 2023
2	Sehore (Madhya Pradesh)	18 th January 2023
3	Jalpaiguri (West Bengal)	21 st January 2023
4	Nellore (Andhra Pradesh)	24 th January 2023
5	Rohtak (Haryana)	24 th January 2023

PHOTO GALLERY

On occasion of silver jubilee celebration of TRAI, a special online COP was held 10th January 23 with college students in association with DTE, Gujarat Govt. Dr. P. D. Vaghela, Chairman, TRAI and Pr. Secretary, Gujarat Govt Sh. S.J. Haider graced that event. A special session on cyber security was delivered by Sh. Hitesh Jhala, Gujarat Police for the benefit of participants.



**Special Consumer Outreach Program for students at Gujarat (Rajasthan) held on 10th Jan. 2023
by Regional Office, Jaipur**



Special Consumer Outreach Program for students at Jalpaiguri (West Bengal) held on 21st January 23 by Regional Office, Kolkata



Special Consumer Outreach Program for students at Nellore (Andhra Pradesh) held on 24th January 23 by Regional Office, Hyderabad



**Consumer Outreach Programme at Rohtak (Haryana) on 24th January 2023 by
Regional Office, Jaipur**

***Full details of the Directions/Orders/Consultation Paper/Report, Subscription
Data, etc mentioned in this newsletter are available on TRAI website***

www.trai.gov.in

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(Old Minto Road), New Delhi-110 002.***

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